

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., announced today that the House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2004 omnibus appropriations bill, which includes 7 of the 13 bills needed to fund government operations. The measure totals \$328 billion in discretionary spending, and passed the House by a vote of 242 to 176. The outcome of the bill - which funds the government for the 2004 fiscal year and began on October 1, 2003 - is not certain, since the Senate will not vote on it until early January. The bill would then be signed into law by the President.

Jackson, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, said, "The omnibus bill includes funding for some significant projects in the Second Congressional District, the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois. I am personally gratified by the \$406,000,000 for the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative, but over-all I couldn't support the bill - which is why I ultimately voted against it.

"I voted against it because the process was flawed - Republicans locked Democrats out of any serious participation in the Labor-HHS part of the package. It included a provision to concentrate ownership of media, despite overwhelming bipartisan opposition in the House and Senate. I opposed the Federal government's involvement of providing educational vouchers to DC's children, spending public dollars on private education, which weakens the federal government's commitment to public education. The bill also allows the Department of Labor to reclassify millions of jobs to deny workers overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Although I voted against the bill, there were several items that the House included as part of the bill as a result of my request, including:

Congressman Jackson Announces Illinois Funds In Omnibus Spending Bill

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*\$250,000 for Chicago Public Schools for the "After-School Counts" and the "After-School Matters" programs.

*\$200,000 for Chicago State University to establish a school of pharmacy.

*\$600,000 for the construction of a new access road to a new Sauk Village industrial park.

*\$450,000 to assist Homewood in purchasing and renovating the former Illinois Central train depot by constructing a new platform and expanding and improving the parking area.

*\$330,000 to complete reconstruction, including lighting, along Sauk Trail in Park Forest.

*\$200,000 for Phase II engineering and right-of-way acquisition for major improvements at bottleneck intersection of 168th and State Street in South Holland.

*\$100,000 for the Southeast Chicago Development Commission to assist in the construction of a shopping center.

Other projects secured by Rep. Jackson that will benefit the 2nd CD as well as the rest of the state.

*\$8,000,000 to continue funding for the Chicago-to-St. Louis high-speed rail corridor development.

*\$7,000,000 for the CTA and downstate bus transit services to modernize a portion of the transit bus fleets throughout the state.

*\$3,000,000 to implement high priority Intelligent Transportation System projects to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of transportation mobility and safety.